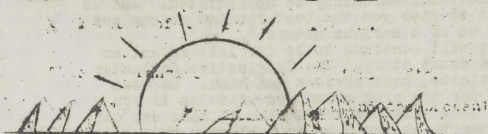


The Imaginative
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NOVEMBER
1950

DAWN



The
Fanzine
From
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not short. I don't know how the fans will like it because I'm not much of a writer but I get a warm out of trying to write along your lines of thought.

Here's luck to Dawn and all of its members.

KURTIS GORDON VOLIKOVSKY
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

DEAR DAWN MEN:

(Original salutation, eh what?)
I just received 3 issues of the mag so pursuant to your request, am sitting down at faithful Royal to write you a letter.

The main thing lacking in your otherwise good mag is a good subject for discussion. The flying disc business and the A and H bombs have been done to death, and nothing new has come up. (I don't call deros new.) At least, this is the situation in the #9 issue. At any rate, I think a new discussion field should be opened up, so, not belatedly I trust, may I mention --- (fanfare) Dianetics! If no one to date has written to you on this, let me be the first to do so. Around new York, this subject has easily been the most-discussed among fans of any. Even Bradbury and the latest issue of (fill in the name of your favorite mag here) have been ignored. In fact, so much has been said about it that N.Y. fan began singing, to the tune of that "Cinderella" song- "Dianetics, Dianetics, All I hear is Dianetics"... etc. Therefore, perhaps your readers could light into it. The results should be highly interesting. Judging from the letters in the latest Brass Tacks, the attitude of fandom as a whole has to date taken to it blindly and unquestioningly accepted it. This is not good. The scientific attitude should always be cultivated.

(12)

Hubbard invites proff--all right, let's give it a spin. A bit more research, please, before entering it so enthusiastically. By that I mean, of course, the some of the techniques, or at least back to those who have. I personally believe in it, with reservations. The public does, too, at least, at latest reports, enough to make it the #7 nationwide best seller among nonfiction books. Of course, that doesn't mean a thing. They made Volikovsky #1! If it weren't so ridiculous, I'd suggest what as another subject for discussion. But, oh well, to return to my original train of thought, the critics all seem to be rather down on it. Time called it a new cult, the N.Y. Post was highly sarcastic, and the N.Y. Times ditto. Altho the latter printed follow-up letters on it, including a reply from L.R.N. The criticisms, correctly or not, seem to judge the book by it's wordage alone, without even thinking of its evidence, and unanimously condemn it as ridiculous. What really made my blood boil was the comment of several of the reviewers, that was first printed in ASF--implying that, of course, fans and editors will believe anything, no matter how far fetched, and that this alone should condemn it! The arguments I have heard against it so far don't seem very valid. Lester Del Ray has called it a kind of streamlined hypnotism. By this he meant that it was auto-suggestion administered by an outside agent, the auditor. Unfortunately, this doesn't account for the fact that the insane, who according to modern authority cannot be hypnotized without drugs, were given Dianotic Therapy successfully. My authority for this as yet unpublished statement is editor Campbell's speech at the 4th N.Y. conclave last May. A logical sound argument is the one which says that the human embryo is incapable of picking up any sound at all while in the womb. del Ray suggest

in placing a microphone there to check--so far no one has taken him up on this, I think. Also they say that Hubbard, an engineer, not versed in Pschiatry, could'nt possibly have developed a new science. Frank Belknap Long, (Gee, aren't I the name-dropper, tho?) among others, has advanced discoveries. And some very uneducated men have made some pretty important ones. So far, most of the arguments against Dianetics have failed to take into account one simple fact--it works. Okay, DAWN readers, take it on from there.

I seem to have forgotten something when I spoke of possible subjects. We can always talk about fan politics. Let me throw my two credits into this convention business. The The Sneary-Boggs plan, combining as it does the ideas of the original plan and that suggested by Garner, seems the best. The only alternative would be a nation-wide poll of prozine readers--a dismal task, and one well-nigh impossible of accomplishment. Another tidbit to kick around is the Best of the Year Awards thing. You know, the Hugos (after Gernsback, of course) which the Hydra club of N.Y. is to give. Is organized fandom to have a hand in this or not? Contrary to reports published in some mags, the awards were not given this year, but plans were discussed. As I recall, it had been decided to give an award to the best sf magazine story of the year, one to the best book, one to the best find of the year, and several others. Readers of Super Science will recall mention there of a plan to give such awards. Ray van Houten, the originator, is working with the Hydra; and attended the discussion. So for that matter, did your rambunctious contributor, Joe Gibson. You'll probably hear from him on this. The plan so far is to let a board of judges decide on the all-over best, but who'll

do the nominating? I think it should be local fan groups. The analogy was drawn between those awards and the movie industry's Oscars. A board of judges decides these, but--the exhibitors make nominations. Since the nearest thing to exhibitors we have in the sf field are the bookdealers, this wouldn't work out--there aren't enough of them and the magazines would be excluded. Why not let the fans do the preliminary work? This is an unparalleled opportunity for fans to really do something for the literature they love so well, besides putting it and themselves more in the public eye. What do YOU think?

One more thing and I'll leave quietly. How many sf fans are there who like modern music and progressive jazz as much as I do? I'd like to hear from you, preferably thru the pages of DAWN. All or most of those I've asked of late seem to be rather antipathetic. How come? Aren't fans supposed to be always looking toward the future, in search of new things, ideas, concepts, et al? How many agree with that mess sr. Kenton, Parker, Ventura, Gillispie, Shearing, and the others are playing some of today's finest music? Bop--so called, which is actually only one type of modern music--has been greatly under-rated. The weird antics of some of its exponents, particularly Gillespie & co. have scared many away. But all that was just showmanship, the icing on the cake, necessary to make it interesting to the public at large who prefer their music with a little spectacle as well. The music is really too good to need any such display. Give it a try.

Fantasteriffically yours

KEN BEALE
BRONX, NEW YORK